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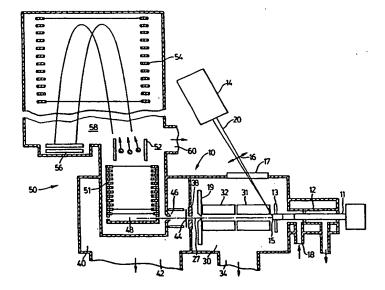
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(54) Title: SPECTROMETER PROVIDED WITH PULSED ION SOURCE AND TRANSMISSION DEVICE TO DAMP ION MOTION AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus are provided for providing an ion transmission device or interface between an ion source and a spectrometer. The ion transmission device can include a multipole rod set and includes a damping gas, to damp spatial and energy spreads of ions generated by a pulsed ion source. The multipole rod set has the effect of guiding the ions along an ion path, so that they can be directed into the inlet of a mass spectrometer. The invention has particular application to MALDI (matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization) ion sources, which produce a small supersonic jet of matrix molecules and ions, which is substantially non-directional, and can have ions travelling in all available directions from the source and having a wide range of energy spreads. The ion transmission device can have a number of effects, including: substantially spreading out the generated ions along an ion axis to generate a quasi-continuous beam; reducing the energy spread of ions emitted from the source; and at least partially suppressing unwanted fragmentation of analyte ions. Consequently, a number of pulses of ions can be delivered to the time-of-flight or other spectrometer, for each cycle of the ion generation.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 6 H01J49/42 H01J IPC 6 H01J49/04 H01J49/40 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 H01J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Α DE 195 11 333 C (BRUKER FRANZEN ANALYTIK 1,24 GMBH) 8 August 1996 (1996-08-08) column 5, last paragraph - column 7, paragraph 1 P.X KRUTCHINSKY A N ET AL: "Collisional 1 - 43Damping Interface for an Electrospray Ionization Time -of-Flight Mass Spectrometer" JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MASS SPECTROMETRY, vol. 9, no. 6, 1 June 1998 (1998-06-01), page 569-579 XP004122896 ISSN: 1044-0305 cited in the application the whole document -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 26 August 1999 02/09/1999 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Hulne, S

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